

Remarks/Arguments:

1. The claims. Claims 1 and 4-20 are pending. Claims 1, 4-8 and 10 are currently under examination and claims 9 and 11-20 are withdrawn. Claim 1 is currently amended to recite that the claimed polynucleotide is non-genomic. Support for this amendment is found in the specification, for example, at page 8, line 8-10. Claims 7 and 10 are amended to provide clarification. Therefore, as the Examiner will appreciate, no new matter is added by amendment.

2. The specification. The amendment to the specification is provided to properly recite that this application is a continuation application.

3. 35 U.S.C. § 101/35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 1, 4-8 and 10 stand rejected for lack of utility and lack of enablement on the basis that “the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well-established utility.” (See page 3, paragraph 7). The Examiner states, at page 4, paragraph 1, that “the specification fails to disclose the specific biological functions or any physiological significance of the PFI-020.” (PFI-020 is the polypeptide encoded by the claimed polynucleotide). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The specification has clearly demonstrated a biological function for the PFI-020 polypeptide encoded by the claimed polynucleotides. For example, in addition to the bioinformatics information, at page 16, lines 12-33, which predicts that PFI-020 is a purinoreceptor, the specification further confirms that PFI-020 is indeed a purinoreceptor based upon ligand binding assays which verified that the receptor binds adenosine-based and uridine-based ligands (see specification, at page 19, lines 11-25). Thus, the specification does provide a specific and substantial utility for the claimed nucleic acids because the specification provides a specific structure (polynucleotide sequence) and biological function (activation by adenosine- and uridine-based ligands). At the very least, the polypeptide encoded by the claimed polynucleotide has the well established utility of encoding a polypeptide that could be used to assay the presence of the adenosine- and uridine-based ligands in a sample. For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004.

4. 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected for

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indefiniteness. Claim 7 is currently being amended to recite that the claimed process produces the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2. Claim 10 is currently being amended to recite that the claimed membrane preparation comprises the recombinant polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments herein and reconsideration of the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004.

5. 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 1, 4-8 and 10 are rejected as anticipated by Ramakrishnan. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

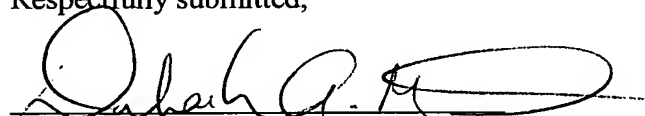
Ramakrishnan discloses genomic sequence including the sequence encoding a P2Y-like GPCR polypeptide (see the Figure 1 description, at page 8, lines 6-7 of Ramakrishnan). As shown in Figure 1 of Ramakrishnan, this reference incorrectly identifies the open reading frame of the P2Y purinoreceptor, both at the N-terminus and the C-terminus, as compared to the claimed polynucleotides of the claimed invention. Therefore, Ramakrishnan does not disclose a non-genomic sequence consisting of a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO:2, as in claim 1 as currently being amended. Nor does Ramakrishnan disclose a vector including a regulatory sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO: 2, as in claim 4. Therefore, for all of the above reasons, Applicants request entry of the amendment hereinabove and reconsideration of the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004

6. Applicants believe that the amendments hereinabove place the Application in condition for immediate allowance. Therefore, entry of the amendments hereinabove, and reconsideration of the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004 are respectfully requested. Such prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah A. Martin
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 44,222

Pfizer Inc.
Patent Department, MS 8260-1611
Eastern Point Road
Groton, Connecticut 06340
(860) 715-1821